

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Please cancel claims 14, 20, 23, and 33, without disclaimer or prejudice to be pursued in this or a later-filed continuation, divisional, or continuation-in-part patent application and amend the following claims.

Claims 1-11 (canceled)

12. (currently amended) A vehicle information system suitable for installation aboard a passenger vehicle, comprising:

a local content source for providing a first content library associated with a first passenger seat group within the passenger vehicle;

a headend system for communicating with a remote content source including a second content library associated with a second passenger seat group within the passenger vehicle, ~~said headend system~~ and for providing a first content catalog of first entertainment files available from the first content library and a second content catalog of second entertainment files available from the second content library, the second content catalog with file information, including a title, a content description, and a content rating, for each of the second entertainment files;

a first portable media device being associated with the first passenger seat group and automatically initializing wireless communications with said headend system and providing a first operational status of said first portable media device upon boarding the passenger vehicle, said first portable media device for presenting the first content catalog, for enabling selection of a selected first entertainment file via the first content catalog, and for receiving the entire selected first entertainment file ~~in its entirety~~ from the first content library via said headend system; and

a second portable media device being associated with the second passenger seat group and automatically initializing wireless communications with said headend system and providing a second operational status of said second portable media device upon boarding the

passenger vehicle, said second portable media device for presenting the second content catalog with the file information and for enabling selection of a selected second entertainment file via the second content catalog, said headend system verifying that the content rating of the selected second entertainment file satisfies a predetermined content standard, and enabling said second portable media device to receive the ~~selected~~ entire verified second entertainment file ~~in its entirety~~ from the second content library and said local content source to store an archival copy of the ~~selected~~ verified second entertainment file in an appropriate file library based upon the file information ~~each if the content rating of the selected second entertainment file satisfies a predetermined content standard~~,

wherein the second content library is different from the first content library and is not available to said first portable media device, and

wherein said first and second portable media devices can respectively present the selected first and second entertainment files regardless of whether said first and second portable media devices are in communication with said headend system.

13. (currently amended) The vehicle information system of claim 12, wherein said second portable media device includes:

a handheld case having a predetermined shape and including a communication port;
a transceiver system for wirelessly communicating with said headend system via the communication port, said transceiver system being disposed within said handheld case;

an integrated user interface system being provided on said handheld case and including:

a video presentation system for selecting among the second entertainment files available from the second content library via a menu-based system and for presenting a video portion of the ~~selected~~ verified second entertainment file;

an audio presentation for presenting an audio portion of the ~~selected~~ verified second entertainment file; and

a touchscreen control system for selecting the ~~selected~~ verified second entertainment file for presentation and controlling the presentation of the ~~selected~~ verified second entertainment file.

Claims 14 - 16 (canceled)

17. (currently amended) The vehicle information system of claim 12, wherein ~~at least a portion of the file information for the second content catalog includes download fee information for each of the second entertainment files, the download fee information identifying files within the second content library is~~ that can be made available to said first portable media device upon payment of a fee.

18. (currently amended) The vehicle information system of claim 17, wherein the file information for the second content catalog includes content preview information for each of the second entertainment files, the content preview information identifying files within the second content library for which a content preview ~~from the second content library~~ is available for presentation via said first portable media device prior to the payment of the fee.

19. (currently amended) The vehicle information system of claim 12, wherein said second portable media device is configured to upload a passenger entertainment file associated with passenger file information, including a title, a content description, and a content rating, to said local content source for subsequent download by another portable media device, and wherein said headend system verifies that the content rating of the passenger entertainment file satisfies the predetermined content standard and enables said local content source to receive and store the verified passenger entertainment file in an appropriate file library based upon the passenger file information ~~if the content rating of the passenger file satisfies the predetermined content standard.~~

20. (canceled)

21. (canceled)

22. (currently amended) The vehicle information system of claim 12, further comprising a plurality of said first portable media devices ~~each being associated with the first passenger seat group and configured for selecting among the first entertainment files available from the first content library and for presenting the selected first entertainment file~~ and a plurality of said second portable media devices.

23. (canceled)

24. (currently amended) An aircraft including a vehicle information system ~~characterized by~~ being provided in accordance with claim 12.

25. (currently amended) A portable media device for communicating with a remote content source via a vehicle information system being installed aboard a passenger vehicle and having a headend system and a local content source, the portable media device and the remote content source each being associated with a selected passenger seat group, comprising:

a handheld case having a predetermined shape and including a communication port;

a transceiver system for wirelessly communicating with the headend system of the vehicle information system via the communication port and for initializing communications with the headend system and providing an operational status of the portable media device automatically when the portable media device is disposed aboard the passenger vehicle, said transceiver system being disposed within said handheld case; and

an integrated user interface system being provided on said handheld case and including:

a video presentation system for presenting a content catalog of entertainment files available from a relevant content library of the remote content source and for selecting a selected entertainment file from among the available entertainment files via a menu-based system, the content catalog having file information, including a title, a content description, and a content rating, for each of the entertainment files, the headend system verifying that the content rating of the selected entertainment file satisfies a predetermined content standard;

a memory system for receiving and storing ~~a selected~~ the entire verified entertainment file ~~in its entirety~~ from the remote content source ~~if the content rating of the selected entertainment file satisfies a predetermined content standard~~ such that the portable media device can present the stored entertainment file regardless of whether the portable media device is in communication with the vehicle information system;

said video presentation system for presenting a video portion of the stored entertainment file;

an audio presentation for presenting an audio portion of the stored entertainment file; and

a touchscreen control system for selecting the stored entertainment file for presentation and controlling the presentation of the stored entertainment file,

wherein the local content source includes a content library that is different from the relevant content library, that is associated with another passenger seat group, and that is not available to the portable media device, and

wherein the local content source stores an archival copy of the stored entertainment file in an appropriate file library based upon the file information ~~if the content rating of the selected entertainment file satisfies the predetermined content standard.~~

26. (currently amended) A vehicle information system installed aboard a passenger vehicle, comprising:

a headend system for communicating with a remote content source including a relevant content library associated with a relevant passenger seat group within the passenger vehicle; and

a portable media device for selecting and receiving preselected viewing content available from the relevant content library of the content source via the headend system and for presenting the preselected viewing content ~~as characterized by~~ in accordance with claim 25.

27. (canceled)

28. (currently amended) A method for distributing viewing content aboard a passenger vehicle, comprising:

providing a headend system including a local content source for providing a first content library associated with a first passenger seat group within the passenger vehicle, ~~said headend system~~ and for communicating with a remote content source including a second content library associated with a second passenger seat group within the passenger vehicle;

providing a first content catalog of first entertainment files available from the first content library and a second content catalog of second entertainment files available from the second content library, the second content catalog having file information, including a title, a content description, and a content rating, for each of the second entertainment files;

initializing a first portable media device associated with the first passenger seat group to wirelessly communicate with said headend system and providing a first operational status of said first portable media device automatically upon boarding the passenger vehicle;

presenting the first content catalog via ~~a the~~ the first portable media device ~~associated with the first passenger seat group;~~

enabling the first portable media device to select a selected first entertainment file via the first content catalog and to receive the entire selected first entertainment file ~~in its entirety~~ from the first content library via said headend system;

initializing a second portable media device associated with the second passenger seat group to wirelessly communicate with said headend system and providing a second operational status of said second portable media device automatically upon boarding the passenger vehicle;

presenting the second content catalog with the file information via ~~a~~ the second portable media device ~~associated with the second passenger seat group~~; and

enabling the second portable media device to select a selected second entertainment file via the second content catalog;

~~if~~ verifying that the content rating of the selected second entertainment file satisfies a predetermined content standard,

enabling the second portable media device to receive the ~~selected~~ verified second entertainment file from the second content library via said headend system; and

enabling the local content source to store an archival copy of the ~~selected~~ verified second entertainment file in an appropriate file library based upon the file information; ~~and~~

~~inhibiting the second portable media device from receiving the selected second entertainment file if the content rating of the selected second entertainment file fails to satisfy the predetermined content standard,~~

wherein the second content library is different from the first content library and is not available to said first portable media device, and

wherein said first and second portable media devices can respectively present the selected first and second entertainment files regardless of whether said first and second portable media devices are in communication with said headend system.

29. (currently amended) The method of claim 28, further comprising updating the first content catalog to include the archival copy of the ~~selected~~ verified second entertainment file and ~~the~~ a passenger entertainment file; and enabling each file to be available for subsequent download by the first portable media device.

30. (currently amended) The method of claim 28, further comprising configuring the second portable media device to upload a passenger entertainment file associated with passenger file information, including a title, a content description, and a content rating to said local content source for subsequent download by another portable media device, verifying that the content rating of the passenger entertainment file satisfies the predetermined content standard, and enabling the local content source to receive and store the verified passenger entertainment file in an appropriate file library based upon the passenger file information ~~if the content rating of the passenger file satisfies the predetermined content standard~~.

31. (canceled)

32. (previously presented) The vehicle information system of claim 12, wherein the content rating of the second entertainment files includes parent labeling guideline requirements.

33. (canceled)

34. (previously presented) The vehicle information system of claim 17, wherein said first portable media device includes a credit card reader for receiving transaction information in payment of the fee, said credit card reader being disposed upon a handheld housing of said first portable media device.

35. (previously presented) The vehicle information system of claim 34, wherein the remote content source processes the transaction information by calculating a total fee, generating a transaction report, and forwarding the transaction report to a billing address associated with the transaction information.

36. (currently amended) The vehicle information system of claim 19, wherein said headend system updates the first content catalog to include the file information for the archival copy of the ~~selected~~ verified second entertainment file and the passenger file information for the passenger entertainment file such that each file is available for subsequent download by said first portable media device.

Please add the following new claims.

37. (new) The vehicle information system of claim 19, wherein the passenger entertainment file comprises destination information that is associated with a travel destination of the passenger vehicle, the destination information being selected from a group consisting of a map of a destination city, travel route information related to the destination city, hotel accommodation information, and additional travel information.

38. (new) The vehicle information system of claim 19, wherein said headend system identifies whether the passenger entertainment file and any second entertainment files available from the second content library do not satisfy the predetermined content standard and inhibits dissemination and storage of the identified files within the vehicle information system.

39. (new) The portable media device of claim 25, wherein said control system supports volume, mixing, and equalization control for enhancing the presentation of the audio portion of the stored entertainment file.

40. (new) The method of claim 28, further comprising:
identifying any second entertainment files available from the second content library that do not satisfy the predetermined content standard; and
inhibiting the second portable media device from receiving the identified second entertainment files.